Recommendation of Expert Committee on WTO

4133. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee set up by the Punjab Government to study the impact of WTO on agriculture and industry has recommended that the Central Government should consult State Government before introducing domestic reforms and signing any international agreements particularly those relating to agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) It has been informed by the Punjab Government that the Experts Committee as was set up by the Punjab Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh, to study the impact of WTO on Agriculture and Industry, has yet to submit its final report and that in its preliminary discussions, it has recommended that the Central Government should consult State Governments before introducing domestic reforms and signing any international agreements particularly those relating to agriculture.

The Central Government had already undertaken wide ranging consultations with State Governments, representatives of farmers organisations, agricultural experts, non-governmental organizations and other stake holders before formulating and finalising its proposals for the ongoing mandated negotiations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). This process of consultations with the State Governments and other stake holders is being continued for evolving our negotiating strategy from time to time for the ongoing mandated negotiations under AoA.